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NPRO INVENTORY

National Park Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Cultural Resources Division

Westin Building, 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

1. SITE I.D. NO

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2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

White River Bridge

5. ORIGINAL USE

Vehicular
Bridge

7. CLASSIFICATION

9. RATING

10. DATE
1929

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

Road to Sunrise crossing the White River

6. PRESENT USE

Same

8. UTM ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

11. REGION

4. CITY/VICINITY

White River Entrance

COUNTY

Pierce

STATE

Washington

SCALE

1:24

1:62.5

QUAD

NAME

12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

National Park Service / Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods-Star Route, Ashford, WA. 98304

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Three-centered, reinforced concrete arch with granite veneer and stone parapet walls; one span.

The White River Bridge, completed in 1929 by contractor John D. Tobin of Portland, Oregon, consists of a single span concrete arch with a granite facing and measures 60 feet in length. Contractor Tobin began work in August 1928 and by November Park Superintendent O. A. Tomlinson reported that the concrete construction was fully completed along with seventy per cent of the granite masonry work. The two lane bridge with stone parapet walls and a bridle path four feet in width, opened for traffic during the 1929 season.

The first road approaching Mount Rainier from the east was constructed by the Mount Rainier Mining Company. Holders of a claim at Glacier Basin, the mining company developed the road in 1914 following an existing trail along the north side of the White River. Park Superintendent Reaburn described the road in 1916 as being 12 feet wide between the ditches and that a portion of it had been resurfaced. Two years later the State of Washington undertook the construction of a highway through the Cascades via the White River valley. By 1918 twenty nine miles of road between Enumclaw and the park boundary were complete. In 1920 the National Park Service, anticipating increased visitor traffic, improved a three mile section of the old mining road (running from the present White River Bridge to the Public Auto Camp.)

14. CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)☐ YES☐ NO☒ UNKNOWN

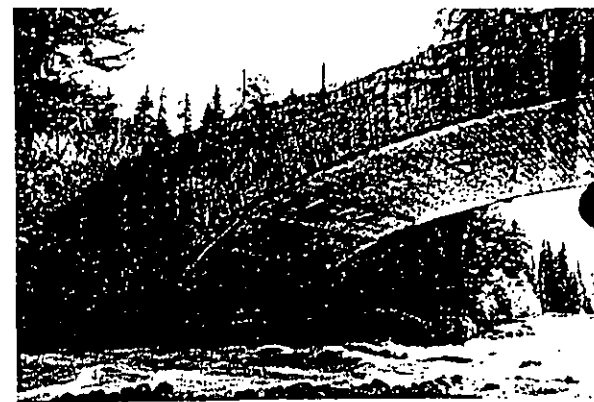
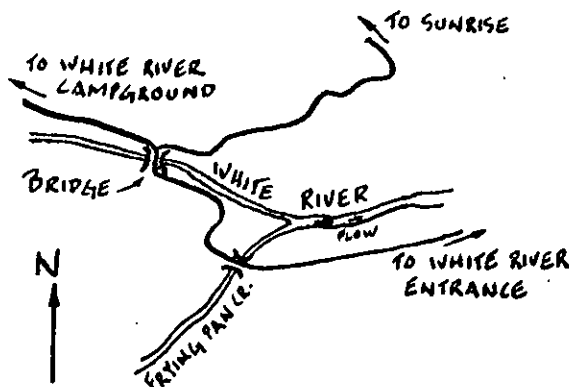
16. SIGNIFICANCE

In 1924 Superintendent Tomlinson reported the need for further road improvements to accommodate the increasing traffic. The growing popularity of the park's east side led to the development of Yakima Park (Sunrise) between 1924-29. Construction of the fourteen-mile Yakima Park Road began in 1927. The White River Bridge was part of the new roadway.

The Bureau of Public Roads, administering the bids for park road and bridge construction, awarded J. D. Tobin the contract for the White River Bridge. Previously Tobin had built the Christine Falls and Narada Falls Bridges (see other entries.) The NPS Western Division, Branch of Plans and Design designed the rustic elements for all three bridges. Associate Landscape Architect Earnest A. Davidson supervised the cutting and placing of the stone. The bridge is presently in good condition retaining most of its original appearance.

16. SIGNIFICANCE

The White River Bridge, associated with the early development of Yakima Park (Sunrise), is additionally an outstanding example of rustic architecture. Native granite was used for the stone veneer and parapet walls. As with most of the NPS rustic architecture the Western Division Branch of Plans and Design executed the design of the rustic elements. Thomas C. Vint served as Chief Architect on the project.



18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ NAME

19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☐ YES, LIMITED ☒ YES, UNLIMITED
☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS

☐ NR ☐ NHIL ☐ HABS ☐ HAER-1 ☐ HAER ☐ NPS ☐ STATE
☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER

21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Erwin N. Thompson, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington: Historic Resource Study (Denver, CO. : NPS, 1981) pp. 211-3

Robert N. McIntyre, "A Short History of Mount Rainier National Park" (unpublished manuscript, Archives, Mount Rainier National Park, 1952) pp. 117-8 and p. 253.

Superintendent's Monthly Reports, 3 August 1927, 1 August 1928 and 1 November 1928, Archives, Mount Rainier National Park.

22. INVENTORIED BY

Gray Fitzsimons and Martin Stupich

AFFILIATION

MORA Cultural Resource Survey

DATE

8/2/83